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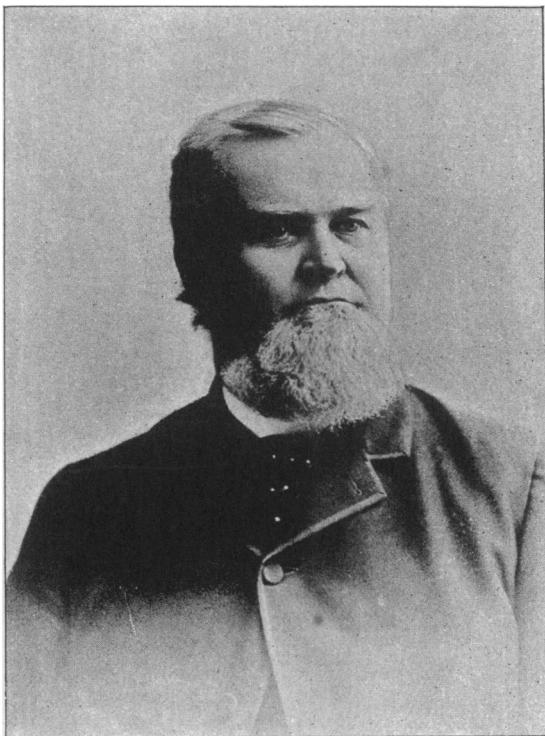
BIOGRAPHY.

HUDSON A. WOOD.

BY F. P. MATZ, SC. D., PH. D., PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS AND ASTRONOMY IN
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HUDSON A. WOOD, now Professor of Mathematics in the *Stevens School*, Hoboken, New Jersey, was born near Smyrna, New York, May 10, 1841. He is the middle one of a family of nine children; his brother, Professor DeVolson Wood, whose biography appeared in the September-October (1895) number of the *MONTHLY*, is the eldest. He was brought up on the farm, and early knew what hard work meant. He attributes his robust constitution to the vigorous exercise of his younger days. In the district school near his home, which he attended during the winter months, he acquired his early education. He evinced an unspeakable desire for study; and many a time, after a day's hard work, did he drop to sleep while poring over some book. At the age of fifteen, he spent his first winter away at school. When seventeen, he taught the district school adjoining his home; and, at the same time, he was initiated into the mysteries and pleasantries of boarding around. At the age of twenty he had taught a district school, a village school, and had completed the studies prescribed for the Freshman Class in Madison (now Colgate) University, at Hamilton, New York.

The year 1861, when Mr. Wood was twenty years of age, marks the beginning of the Civil War. A Company was raised at Hamilton, composed in part of students of the University. In this Company, afterward one of the Companies of the 61st Regiment of New York Volunteers, Mr. Wood enlisted. He was in the service nearly two years, and was engaged in six battles. His regiment took



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an active part in "The Seven-Days Battles" around Richmond, and sustained heavy losses. In the battle of Frazer's Farm, Mr. Wood had a ball shot through his coat, another through his haversack, and also received two slight flesh-wounds. More than one-half of the regiment fell in this desperate encounter at night-fall. He assisted in saving the colors of the regiment, for which he was promoted. At the battle of Fair Oaks, Mr. Wood stood within a few feet of General O. O. Howard, when the latter was wounded in the arm which afterward had to be amputated. In the battle of Malvern Hill, the regiment was hotly engaged for several hours; but owing to its protected position, the loss sustained by the regiment was not very severe. Soon after the battle of Malvern Hill, Mr. Wood was severely injured while working on the fortifications, and after lying in the hospital for over six months, and not recovering, he was discharged from the army.

Seven months after his return from the war, Mr. Wood entered the Literary Department of Michigan University. At the commencement exercises of the University, three years after his matriculation, he was among those chosen to deliver orations. Of Mr. Wood's oration, the *Detroit Tribune* spoke as follows: "His oration was one of the best of the day, both as to literary and elocutionary merit. Some portions were of unusual beauty, and the delivery was emphatic and impressive."

During his collegiate years, he spent the major portion of his time at Latin and Greek, as he found a thorough knowledge of these languages very difficult to acquire. For him, Mathematics always was "an easy study"—a *delightful study*; and for the Natural Sciences, he had (and still has) a peculiar *fondness*. On graduation he received the Degree of *Bachelor of Arts* (A. B.), in 1866; subsequently, the Degree of *Master of Arts* (A. M.); and last June, from New Windsor College, the Degree of *Doctor of Philosophy* (Ph. D.)

Mr. Wood was married to Miss Mary Hicks, near Rochester, New York, September 2, 1868; and he has two sons, 18 and 20 years of age, who are attending the Stevens Institute of Technology;

After graduation, Professor Wood was the Principal of an Academy near Philadelphia, Pa., for eight years, when he accepted the position of Vice Principal and Professor of Higher Mathematics and Astronomy in the *Keystone State Normal School* of Pennsylvania. During his connection with this School, Professor Wood edited the *Scientific Department*, and subsequently the *Mathematical Department*, in the *NATIONAL EDUCATOR*.

Among his pupils at this Institution, there was a rather slender, fair-faced, and affable *Pennsylvania-German* youth who had taken his Degree in the Pedagogical Course, during June of the same year in which Professor Wood, in August, entered upon his duties as Vice-Principal and Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy. This youth had returned to his *Alma Mater*, in order to take his Degree in the Scientific Course, two years later. He was the only student in the Scientific Course. Being an industrious student with a mathematico-scientific bent of mind, this youth soon had gained the friendship of Professor Wood. Like *father and son*, the professor and the youth enthusiastically studied the

mathematical works of Loomis, Olney, Quinby, Courtenay, Bartlett, Todhunter—and even selections from the astronomical works of Chauvenet and Watson, for two long but profitable years. At the expiration of the second year, Professor Wood had the good fortune to see his youthful pupil (F. P. Matz) *passed* by the State Board of Examiners, and *graduated*, with "the highest distinction."

Afterwards Professor Wood held (for six years) a position in an educational institution in New York City, and subsequently was for three years the professor of Mathematics in the *Case School of Applied Science*, Cleveland, Ohio. From this last-named School, he was called to his present position, in 1888.

Dr. Wood is fond of Mathematics; and during the last twenty years, he has contributed articles and solutions of problems to *many* periodicals. Of late years, he has confined his attention more particularly to the works he is preparing for publication. His work, *Short Cuts and Curiosities in Mathematics*, is now passing through the press; and before the expiration of the current year, the American Book Company will have published his *Treatise on Plane and Spherical Trigonometry*. His *Perpetual Calendar*, good for ten centuries, has been pronounced the most unique calendar ever published. His article on *Method of Finding the Date of Easter*, has been highly commended. His *New Method of Extracting the Cube Root*, recently printed in the *STEVENS INDICATOR*, has been copied by numerous periodicals.

Dr. Wood has not confined his attention exclusively to Mathematics. He is well versed in the classics, well read in history, and an adept in geology. He is, also, an interesting speaker, and has delivered many public lectures illustrated with the stereopticon. His illustrated lectures on the Civil War are especially interesting.

As a teacher, Dr. Wood is earnest, untiring in his efforts, and patient to render assistance to those who acquire knowledge slowly. He is naturally a *leader*, and inspires his pupils with his own enthusiasm. He is the personification of kindness; but when he has to *drive*, he drives with an energy that is speedily satisfactory to those driven.

When Professor Wood left Cleveland, Ohio, in 1888, the following is an extract of what appeared in one of the large dailies of that city: "Professor H. A. Wood has become so well known in this city, and so highly esteemed by all who know him, that his contemplated change of residence will be felt as a great loss. He has made himself felt in the community as one always ready to do good. He has ever been foremost in Sunday School work, mission enterprises, in church and social life, and in temperance and other reforms."